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CUTTING AND TRIMMING PENNY PORTIONS

(See page 119)

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*Died June 22, 1927. †On leave of absence. ‡In charge.

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Arthur Clayton Ryan

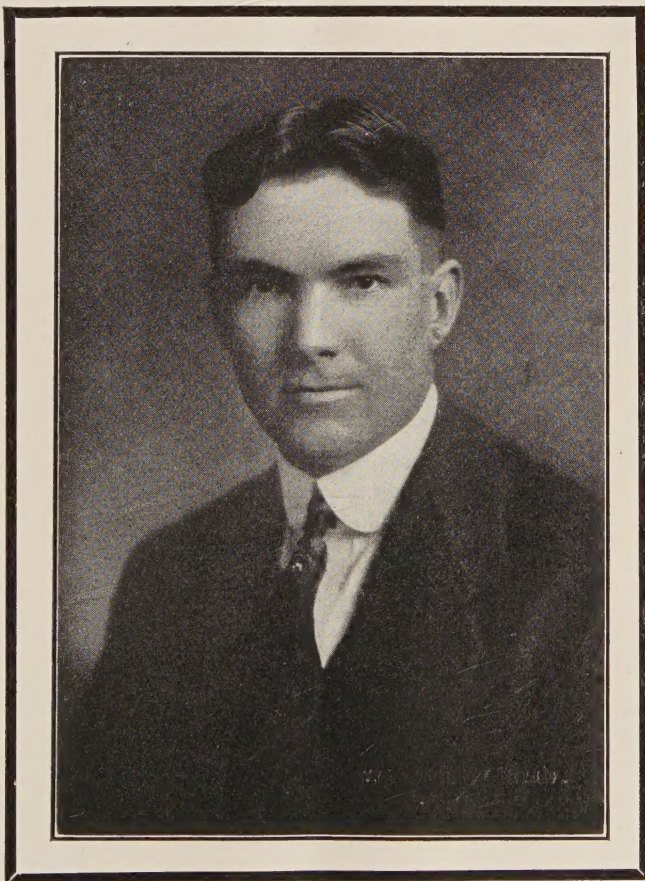
A SUDDEN and sore loss has come to the American Bible Society and the Bible House family by the death, on June 22d, of the Rev. Arthur C. Ryan, D.D. Only two short years ago he became one of the General Secretaries. In the full vigor of his best years, he had entered into, and was carrying on, the responsible and exacting duties of cultivating and developing the financial resources of the Society. Large and robust in physique, he was also sturdy and vigorous in his mental and spiritual equipment. He gave the impression of strength and bigness in many ways, and the promise of many years of fruitful service.

On Friday, encouraged by his colleagues, he went home early, the quicker to throw off an attack of grippe which he was fighting. Nothing serious was anticipated. He was expected, and expecting, to be in office on Monday, then on Tuesday. Wednesday afternoon, word came of a more serious turn, pneumonia had developed, and at 10 p. m. that night he was gone. A brief service was held on Thursday evening at his home in Scarsdale, New York. The principal service and interment were at the family home at Muscatine, Iowa. We may only bow in submission to the

higher wisdom that makes all things work together for good to them that love Him.

In these columns of the March, 1925, RECORD were given some details of Dr. Ryan's previous life and activities. The salient facts may be repeated here. He was born in 1879, and grew up, in Iowa. When nearly twenty-

one, he felt called to the ministry, and sturdily set himself to prepare for it. Entering first a preparatory school, he graduated from Grinnell College in 1909, and Oberlin Theological Seminary in 1911, receiving special recognition for scholarly attainments. Accepting a pointment as a missionary of the Congregational Church, he immediately joined its mission in Turkey with his wife, whom he had married in 1907. There he had varied service and experience, and did valued work especially during the World War, both on the field and while on furlough, in relieving distress, a



ARTHUR CLAYTON RYAN

part of the time with the American Red Cross.

In October, 1920, with the approval and endorsement of all concerned, he was called to be Secretary of the Levant Agency of the American Bible Society. While the war curtailed his field of operations in Asia Minor, he visited nearly every country in Europe on behalf of

the Society, sending reports of conditions that were valued highly at the Bible House. While on furlough in 1925, at the request of the Board, he assisted at the Bible House in carrying on the work left by the resignation of General Secretary Mann. There his presence and manners, his equipment, service, judgment, and spirit, impressed the Board of Managers that he was the person to fill the vacant position of General Secretary with especial responsibility in the Ways and Means Department. So interested was he in his work in the Levant, that he stated frankly that, had it not been for the forced curtailment of Bible distribution in that field, he would have preferred to return to it rather than become General Secretary. However, as time progressed, he became more and more interested in the work of raising the funds necessary to finance the Society. It is no small matter to raise a budget of a million dollars.

Dr. Ryan devoted himself whole-heartedly to the ceaseless task of keeping the churches and those who love the Bible informed as to the needs and developments of the work. He was always cheerful and never despondent. When certain sources of income did not measure up to the expected amount, he devoted himself to devising new or other means to meet the situation. He was not afraid to spend or be spent. He was constantly planning new methods for making the people throughout our broad land aware of the hunger of the nations for the Bread of Life. During the two years he was in charge of the Ways and Means Department, there was a happy and healthy growth all along the line. In 1926, more annuity agreements were written and more indi-

viduals contributed than in any previous year.

He attended the General Conferences or Assemblies of the national churches whenever it was possible for him to get away from the Home Office. Realizing the Society lost something of its direct contact with local churches when the work of the Bible Society was entered on the general budget of the denomination, he was experimenting this spring with holding local conferences, in the larger cities, on the Bible work. Such conferences had been held in Washington, D. C., Wilmington, Chattanooga, and St. Louis. Thus officers of the American Bible Society met and addressed directly representative groups. Much helpful publicity was secured in the local newspapers thereby. Arrangements were under way for similar conferences in other parts of the country.

Recognition of his work and ability was increasingly accorded him by leaders in other organizations, as instanced by the call on him for a paper on "Administrative Policy" before the Conference on Annuities, held in New York on April 29, 1927. In early June, Dickinson College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In his duties at the Bible House, Dr. Ryan was prompt and painstaking. He had the happy faculty of seeing the point of view of others and was always ready to measure every proposal by the larger good of the Bible cause. His cheerfulness was never ruffled by disappointments, or failures to accomplish what had been expected. He was admired and loved by all his colleagues and fellow workers at the Bible House. He will be greatly missed.

Notes and Comments

THIS is the time of the year for the beginning and termination of furloughs on the part of our Foreign Agency Secretaries. The Rev. Paul Penzotti has recently passed through New York and is now with his family at Winona Lake, Ind. During his absence from the La Plata Agency, Mr. Lestard, manager of the Union Book Store at Buenos Aires, will supervise the work of the office of the Agency, while Mr. Chaplin will attend to the field work.

Dr. José Marcial-Dorado and his family have also arrived in this country to spend their furlough. The Rev. L. Alonzo, one of the best known workers of the Methodist (South) Mission in Cuba, will look after the interest of the West Indies Agency in the absence of its Secretary.

A cablegram has been received announcing the safe arrival of the Rev. G. B. Cameron and family at Manila, where he has resumed active charge of the Philippines Agency.

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. J. Oscar Boyd are sailing early in August for the Levant Agency of which Dr. Boyd is Agency Secretary.

SOME details of last year's work have just reached us from the British and Foreign Bible Society. We congratulate them on having circulated over ten million volumes of Scripture in a year for the sixth time; 1,136,123 Bibles, 1,219,997 New Testaments, 7,771,967 portions—a total of 10,128,087.

Further Word from the Mississippi Floods

THE wisdom of the American Bible Society's emergency distribution of Gospel portions to flood sufferers in the Mississippi Valley is borne out by the statement of the Rev. J. J. Morgan, Secretary of the Southwestern Agency. He writes: "In all of my



TWO HOMES OF THOUSANDS LIKE THEM

seventeen years of experience as one of the Home Agencies' Secretaries of the American Bible Society, I have not known of a greater hunger for God's Word than we found among the frightened and distressed people of almost every age and color who have been driven from their homes by the flood."

As the weeks and days have passed, the extent of the disaster has been more fully and accurately measured. The sad experiences of thousands of people and the anxieties with which they face the future have been far more fully realized. It is estimated that an area larger than that of Massachusetts, Connecticut,



ONLY A TEMPORARY REFUGE

Rhode Island, and Delaware combined, went under water in the three states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and that the destitute victims of the flood number nearly 600,000. Letters, received by the Agency Secretaries from pastors in the region, report in-

stance after instance where families have taken refuge in the camps with all their possessions, except the clothing they had on, swept away or submerged.

Through the energetic work of the Southwestern Agency, the distribution of 35,000 Scripture portions in the flood area in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi has been completed, and reports have come of the excellent work done. In Arkansas, the Rev. D. H. Colquette, agent of the American Bible Society, lost no time in the canvass of the flood district, not stopping with the rains that continued to fall nor hesitating to travel through seas of water that for miles and miles reached up to the steps of the railway coaches. In Dermott, Mr. Colquette distributed Gospels to refugees living in forty-three box cars. In some instances he reached the flood sufferers only by motor boat. Among the places visited were



REV. D. H. COLQUETTE AND SOME ASSISTANTS

Forest City, Clarendon, Monticello, Dermott, Monroe, Columbia, and Eudora.

Mr. G. A. Perkins, veteran colporteur of the Southwestern Agency, has sent in a vivid report of his experiences. Part of this is quoted below:

We have visited the refugee camps at New Orleans, Natchez, Vicksburg, Vidalia, Alexandria, Opelousas, and Lafayette. We went to Baton Rouge, New Iberia, Westwego, Gretna, Algiers, Myrtle Grove, Poydras, and Violet. We furnished the camps at Monroe, Baton Rouge, Harrisonburg, Eunice, and New Iberia, but left the actual distribution to others.

The total distribution for April and May has been 46,747 volumes, consisting of 656 Bibles, 1,340 Testaments, and 44,751 portions; 16,548 volumes have been sales; 30,199 have been donations.

Some of these have been given to people who were working on the levees; to Coast, State and National Guards, rescue workers and others. But the most of them have been given to the flood refugees. I have had twenty or thirty hands held out to me at one time pleading for the Word of God. I have gone from tent to tent. I have stood in *one place* and given out

200 portions of the Scriptures. It was a surprise to me to see so many people reading these little books in the tents, on the streets, even while standing in the registration line or at the long dining tables. There were over 45,000 refugees in the camps visited.

I have been upon the battlefields in Mexico. At the time of the death-dealing tornadoes in 1912-1913, I helped to put away the dead at Snyder, Okla., and worked among the refugees at Omaha, Neb., and distributed the Scriptures among them; but I have never seen anything so pathetic or tragic as this flood. No one will ever be able by tongue or pen to draw a true picture of this disaster.

While coming from Alexandria, I saw people running with packs of bedding or a small bundle of clothes to flag the train. These people were fleeing from the raging waters. At one point we were marooned for a short time. The water was about two feet deep on the track and up to the steps on the coaches. While we were stopped, I furnished the passengers with the Scriptures.

Mr. Morgan writes that it has been a great



REFUGEE CAMP—YAZOO CITY

source of satisfaction to the Southwestern Agency to be able to distribute Scriptures to the flood sufferers. In many instances those who could not read gathered around in groups to hear the Word read. He adds that Mr. Perkins and Mr. Colquette report grateful appreciation of the American Bible Society's work on the part of all flood relief officials, the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A. and Red Cross workers, as well as many local pastors and church workers who have aided in the work.

More fully to meet the needs of the negro sufferers, who are in the great majority, the Society's Agency among the Colored People of the United States sent on short notice its four sub-Agency Secretaries to the area with an additional 28,800 Gospel portions and 2,000 New Testaments. The Rev. H. W. B. Wilson, of Atlanta, Ga., and the Rev. D. H. Sansom, of Charlotte, N. C., have been visiting the

camp and towns in Louisiana; and the Rev. S. A. Lucas, of Cleveland, Ohio, and the Rev. M. L. Vaughters, of Houston, Texas, have been visiting the camps and towns in Arkansas. Among the places visited have been Crawley, La., Plaquemine, La., Opelousas, La., Lafayette, La., Baton Rouge, La.; Brinkley, Clarendon, Blackton, Helena, Dark Corner, Cotton Plant, Moro, and Marianna, Arkansas.

They report that lower Louisiana has become a great lake with a diameter of more than fifty miles, with many camps located around the basin. They have traveled many miles by train where the water was up to the roadbed. In Arkansas Mr. Vaughters and Mr. Lucas have used a motor car, as they found trains did not get them closely in touch with the most needy people in the shortest time.

Even in this emergency distribution the commendation of the Holy Scriptures to the attention of the people goes beyond the silent distribution of the Book with words of counsel and encouragement. This is illustrated by an incident reported by Mr. Lucas in meeting four men who were playing cards. "I stopped and greeted them and told them my mission, gave them the Scriptures, and then asked if I might read to them. Two of them said yes. In the same tent lay one sick, who said she would listen.

I read and commented on the fourteenth chapter of St. John. I could see them growing interested, and I called the Rev. Vaughters who was working another row of tents, and we had a service. After prayer I extended an invitation for them to accept Christ as their only hope and their personal Saviour, and to our joy and surprise the four raised their hands in testimony that they would from this day give their hearts to God. It was glorious."

This is a real reward for the weary, physical labor involved in this extended distribution under such difficult conditions. Fuller reports from the Agency among the Colored People will be available later.

In addition to standing with Mr. Morgan in meeting the needs of refugees in camps on the east bank of the Mississippi, Dr. Marston, of the Central Agency, has been doing a large work through pastors in the local camps, ship-

ping Scriptures to them from the Agency in Cincinnati for distribution.

A vivid impression of what is happening may be had through extracts from a letter written so recently as June 8, by a Methodist pastor at Leland, Miss.

Since writing to you, the second rise has started, the gauge in front of our parsonage showing a rise, since Monday, June 6, of one inch every twenty-four hours. There's four feet of water on the way, and the rise will increase. Land that got out last week will be under again this week, to stay until July 15.

Take my Steward Jones' case: Large plantation with few houses left; had two acres clear last week and planted them to truck for food, and yesterday they went under water again. Then Steward McGee, 1,390 acres; forty out last week and planted, and now covered again. Had eighty-eight houses: thirty-four washed away, and not one of those left is habitable.

We have thousands of people in tents, right here in town, and in houses in town and surrounding country that the water has gone out of, who have absolutely nothing in the way of food, clothing, bedding, household furnishings, shelter or anything else except the clothes they had on when rescued, and such things as



THIS
PICTURE
TELLS
ITS OWN
STORY

have been given to them since they refuged here, but *the actual needs will never be met.*

Let me give you two examples: Dan —, with wife and eight children. He was plowing in a field, heard a great roaring sound, looked up through the woods to the north, saw a wall of water tearing his way, unhitched his two mules, jumped up on one and led the other, and tried to make it to his home; but the mules made such poor headway, he pulled off the plow-gears, turned them loose, ran through waist-deep water to his house, put his family on the roof and climbed up himself. Two days later, without food or water, without saving a rag, he was rescued by motor boatmen and brought into town. Stocks, cows, hogs, chickens drowned; and every outhouse, with feedstuffs, swept away. This case was duplicated thousands of times.

J. J. — and family of 9, children ranging from one and a half year old boy to seventeen year old daughter. Farm tenants, rescued, with nothing saved but life itself. Respectable, educated, good people: now literally impoverished. No relatives to call upon for aid. Duplicated hundreds of times.

From where I now sit, I can see four tents, occupied by five families, all whites too, with nothing to eat or wear except that given to them. None of the refugees have Bible or book. Thanks be to God, we won't have to make that statement after your shipment comes!

Dr. Marston has had to reduce some of his other work to meet these needs, and has found

himself also confronted with the serious effects of a flood from mountain torrents in eastern Tennessee, where hundreds of homes of the mountain poor and of miners have been literally swept away.

All of the Christian denominations which have constituencies in the devastated area are becoming vividly conscious of the great difficulties which local churches will have in re-establishing the spiritual ministrations which will be so important in the days of reconstruction. One denomination alone reports three hundred churches destroyed. Scores of pastors have suffered just as their people have suffered. Church buildings and equipment have been damaged by the water. Moreover, hundreds upon hundreds of Christian homes will have lost the Book of Books in the hurry and confusion of flight before the oncoming waters, or will return to find its pages ruined by the flood. Estimates of the need for restoration already before us indicate that not less than 150 pulpit Bibles and 15,000 family Bibles will be required. In the majority of instances resources will probably not be available to purchase them.

It is here that the American Bible Society has the duty to help so far as it can. Its resources are already taxed to the utmost for its regular work, and the Agencies serving the flooded area are already seeking ways of scrimping their all too limited regular work to have a few dollars more to apply to the need which they see approaching.

A number of the denominations have issued appeals for funds to be used for the rehabilitation of churches and pastors' homes. The American Bible Society is not issuing an extended appeal at the present time, but it desires to advise all those who see a great opportunity for spiritual ministration in this heart-touching situation, that it does not have the resources with which even to begin to meet this need. Only by the maintenance of its regular income and the supplementing of that by extra resources from those who see the need, will the Society be able to bring to thousands of homes the joy and reassurance that comes when the Book of Books is again in its place of honor and respect in these re-established homes. The help of the readers of the RECORD will be most welcome.

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A BEAUTIFUL deed is often a suggestion to others. Is this not one?

Lincoln, Neb.

Please find enclosed check for \$5 for your Bible work, a memorial offering for a Civil War soldier. It seems better than buying flowers for his grave.

Three Stories from the West

By the Rev. A. F. Ragatz, D.D., Secretary, Western Agency

Good reading in themselves and stimulating examples of the influence of God's Word on the lives of individuals, these three stories are also samples of what the Annual Report of the American Bible Society contains. It will be issued in the early fall, contain some 450 pages, and be available for ministers and others who can use it advantageously, at the nominal cost of twenty-five cents to cover packing and postage, from The Secretaries, Bible House, Astor Place, New York

I. Who Used the Hebrew Bibles?

FOR a long time we had been supplying Hebrew Scriptures to the pastor of a Dutch Reformed church. We often wondered what he did with them, until one day an elderly Hollander came to our office and asked for some of these same Bibles. He told us that he had been procuring his Bibles through his pastor, but that he had disposed of his ranch and was living in town, so would get his books from us direct.

We asked what he did with the Bibles, and were informed that he had given them to some of his Jewish friends. Finding us genuinely interested in his work, he told us the following story:

His extensive ranch near the city was an ideal place to raise cattle, and he specialized in raising veal. Not desiring to take his calves to market, he soon built up a trade with Jewish butchers, who came to his ranch, slaughtered the calves there, and then took them to the city. As everyone familiar with Hebrew customs knows, there are certain ceremonial rites to be observed in slaughtering animals to be used for food. He was much impressed with the conscientious care taken in the observance of these rites, nor did he ridicule or make light of them. His respectful attitude won the good will and confidence of his Jewish customers.

There then came to this deeply religious Hollander a longing to bring spiritual and Christian help to these men. But there was an obstacle in his way. His wife did not share his missionary spirit; in truth, she was decidedly opposed to it. Her objection became so positive that he had to do it surreptitiously. Thus it happened that he procured his Scriptures through his pastor. The minister would manage on Sunday to place one or more copies in this man's auto, and, when he returned from church, he would hide the Bibles in his barn, until he had a chance to dispose of them.

"For Fear of the Jews"

One of the Bibles was given to an interested Jew, who, for fear of having his companion know that he was reading the Christian's Bible, accepted the gift on condition that nothing be said about it by the donor. To further guard

against anything becoming known among his Jewish neighbors, this Jew cautioned his wife to keep it a secret.

The wife being somewhat anxious about her husband taking such an interest in this mysterious book, decided to determine for herself what it was all about. After several days, during which she found time to read the Gospels and some of the Epistles, she found herself strangely absorbed in a new world of thought. Again and again she desired to call in an older woman, who lived next door and who was her closest friend and adviser; but, mindful of her pledge to her husband, she restrained the impulse. However, one day as she was deeply immersed in her reading, this neighbor made a backdoor call. No one responding to her friendly knock, she entered the house and, before the younger woman became aware of her presence, the older woman stood at her side.

A moment of consternation and embarrassment followed, for the younger woman who had thus been caught in the very act of reading the forbidden book. The older woman soon dispelled all fear by happily exclaiming that she, too, had been reading a Bible which her husband had brought home. Each woman had pledged secrecy, but, having inadvertently divulged their secret to one another, henceforth they spent much time together in reading and discussing the New Testament in its fulfillment of the promises and prophecies of the old covenant.

The Secret Is Out

As time went on, our Dutch missionary found other Jews who became interested, and additional Bibles were distributed with a pledge of secrecy to each one.

Then there came a day when three of these Jews to whom Bibles had been given were at the ranch at the same time. The business transacted, one of them managed to get the Hollander into the barn for a private talk. The Jew told him how the reading of the New Testament had affected his outlook upon life; how he was struggling to accept Christ as his Saviour. So absorbed were they, that neither of them heard one of the other Jews approach. Of a sudden this other man was there, and then the third also appeared.

The open Bible in the hands of the Hollander plainly indicated the nature of the first man's errand. Thus the three Jews knew that each of them had been secretly reading the same book. There was no further need of secrecy. Each began to tell the other what a great change had been wrought in his individual life by reading this wonderful story of Jesus Christ. It also developed that two of these men wanted additional Bibles; one for his son-in-law, and the other for his neighbors; and the third man had come to ask the Hollander to speak to his friend, one of those present, not knowing that his friend already had a copy of the highly prized Book!

Spreading the News

There was great rejoicing and much telling of how their wives had become interested in

IF THE BIBLE OFFERS HOPE AND
COMFORT TO YOU, GIVE IT A
CHANCE TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS
ALSO

The American Bible Society maintains ten Home Agencies and twelve Foreign Agencies for the production and distribution of the Holy Scriptures in the spoken languages and dialects of the peoples; and supplies missions and Christian workers with thousands of volumes free, or at less than cost.

the Scriptures—telling that in each of these homes, after children had been put to bed, the parents read to one another and discussed the strange new doctrine. In each instance certain close, circumspect neighbors had been invited to listen to the Word and join the discussion.

Just how far this influence will reach, and what will finally come of it, only God knows. Already one of these families has moved to a nearby city and reports have come that, through their efforts, several other families are interested. The family asks that Bibles be sent them for distribution among their newly found Jewish friends.

II. A Man Who Hated the Bible

"I wouldn't accept your Bible as a gift. I wouldn't allow one to remain in my house, if you paid me for doing so. It's full of lies, obscenities, and rank superstition," said a man to the colporteur entering his office.

Before the colporteur could make a reply, the

man added: "If I had my way, I'd burn every Bible, tear down every church, and compel every preacher to make an honest living by working for what he got; for, you see, I'm an atheist, and I've uncovered their fraud."

The colporteur knew of a certain minister in that town who for months had fearlessly led a campaign against graft, lawlessness and vice. He named this preacher and asked, "Don't you think Dr. —— has earned his board?" The atheist instantly replied, "Certainly I do. I admire his courage and stand by him in his crusade—in spite of his being a preacher. Oh, I admit there are a few ministers who mean well and do some good." Then he added: "Say, by the way, I've got something one of those preachers wrote that's mighty fine—the old boy who wrote that surely knows his stuff—I wonder if you can tell me who he is. I'd like to hear him some time. You, being acquainted with the preachers, perhaps will be able to tell me who preached it; for I'd like to know if he has anything more like that to say."

Who Wrote the Beatitudes?

All the while this man was looking through a pile of papers on his desk, searching for what he said was "an extract from a sermon." The clipping was found—a two-column boxed quotation from—the Sermon on the Mount!

The colporteur read it, and drew from the atheist the admission that, "if the church believed in such a doctrine, or preached such a gospel, or if the Bible had anything like that to offer its readers in place of its exploded myths, falsehoods, and superstitions, he would no longer oppose them." Then, opening his Bible to the fifth chapter of Matthew, he began to read Christ's sermon on the mount.

Secondhand Knowledge

The atheist came over to the colporteur and followed the lines. Finally, taking the Bible into his own hands and reading several chapters, he turned to the colporteur and said, "I must confess that the only knowledge I have ever had of this book has come to me through those who didn't believe in it. I was raised in such a home, have confined my reading to that kind of literature, and have associated with people who believed as I did. I have never before in my life read a chapter out of this book."

Needless to say the man bought a Bible and without a doubt has discovered many things of interest in its pages. We can only hope that he has read with an open heart those promises, which, if accepted by him, will mean the saving of his soul.

III. "I Want a Whole Bible"

One of our colporteurs was gladly received in the home of a poor family. The mother, surrounded by several small children, said she was very anxious to buy a Bible, if its price were not too high. She soon found one within her means.

As she paid for it she said, "Now I'll be able to read all of it." The colporteur asked what she meant by the remark and was shown the remains of a Bible that had been more than half destroyed by fire. Many pages, both front and back, were gone, and the entire bottom of the Bible was burned off. Not a single whole page remained. Yet, through this dilapidated fragment of Holy Scripture, a man and his wife had been led to Christ, had united with a nearby mission, and were heroically reconstructing their lives along the Christian lines and principles laid down in the Book.

Through Fire and Water

The burned Bible had a history. This man had been hired to clear the debris out of the cellar of a house that had been destroyed by fire. So complete had been the destruction, that nothing but the charred remains of an old trunk was found in the water-filled cellar. In this trunk the only thing that was not utterly destroyed was the Bible. It seemed of no value whatever, and was, therefore, thrown aside.

An officer was there in search of something to identify the man who had occupied the house; for the fire had been caused by the explosion of an illicit still, the owner of which

had given a fictitious name when he rented the house and could not be found.

However, the officer picking up this remnant of a Bible found, on the family record page between the Old and New Testaments, a presentation inscription, written by a mother to her son, giving his name and the date of his leaving home. The officer carefully removed this page, and with its information soon found the man who, for twenty years, had forgotten his Bible and his mother's God.

The workman, moved by some strange impulse, placed the charred remains of the Book in his empty dinner pail and took it home. There, after showing it to his wife and telling its story, he was about to put it into the stove, but was prevented from so doing by his wife, who said she wanted to look at it. Thus, after the evening meal was over, she began to read such portions as were left. They were immediately interested. Not long thereafter they timidly entered the little mission where soon they were won to Christ. Now they were feeling their need of a "whole Bible."

• •

FROM Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, in charge of the Levant Agency, has come this word:

A fortnight ago I spent three days in Angora with Mr. Fowle. A most interesting city. I had not the slightest difficulty in persuading the two leading book-sellers—Turks, of course—to handle Bibles in Turkish and European languages on commission. They may do us out of the full sale price; but, if they sell the books, it doesn't much matter if they do. It gave even me rather a shock to see open Bibles in Angora shopwindows.

• • •

Standing Committees for 1927-1928

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ARLANDO MARINE
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 ALEXANDER S. LYMAN

Penny Portions

THE great and important fact about "Penny Portions" is the spiritual result which comes from their use. That is a story rapidly growing in its volume and interest, and will be presented at another time.

This is a story simply of their material production. Before they can produce results, the portions themselves must be produced.

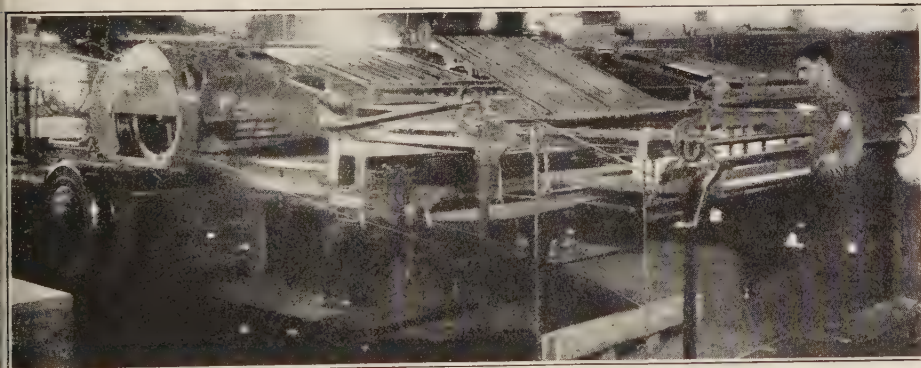
And it is a story worth telling.

Here is an illustration of the importance and benefit of united action by the churches, or of a common source of supply for the churches. It is a question whether there could be "Penny Portions" if the denominations each produced their own copies. These portions are producible at one cent each only because they are printed in the very large quantities no one or even two denominations could use.

pages. The length of the Gospels and other books varies. Therefore the size of type and arrangement must vary according to the amount of material placed in each volume. This explains why the Gospel of St. Mark, for example, is in a larger type than the Gospel of St. Luke, in this one-cent form.

The second factor in the low price is that the portions are manufactured in lots of a *million* or more at a time. This means a million separate volumes made up of various quantities of the different Gospels or Scripture portions.

A third factor is that the printing is done in units each containing not less than four books in each unit. One of the accompanying pictures is of a great Miehle press, which prints a sheet containing 160 pages of these penny por-



THIS GREAT
PRESS
CAN PRINT
FIVE 64-PAGE
PORTIONS
IN A
SINGLE
OPERATION

Again, the campaign of "A Chapter a Day" fostered by the Commission on Evangelism of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America this year was really possible only because of the existence of these penny portions. Doubtless many who joined in the reading of a chapter a day had, or purchased, their own Bibles and Testaments. It is clear, however, that the campaign would not have attained any such proportions as it did without the penny portions, from the fact that practically five hundred thousand of the Gospel of St. Luke, at one cent each, were supplied for use in January, and another half million of the Acts of the Apostles for use in February, in response to orders received by the American Bible Society and its Agencies.

A third reason for publishing this story lies in the interest of the facts and figures which follow.

The sale at one cent a copy requires making the plates with a format which allows the printing of each of the little volumes in exactly 64

tions on one side, and, in the same process, prints another 160 pages on the reverse side. This press can turn out 1,200 sheets so printed in an hour, or the equivalent of 384,000 pages per hour. A factor that contributes to the acceptableness of these portions is that special arrangements are made for the manufacture of the paper used for the text, and also for that used for the covers.

The placing of an order for a million copies at a time is made more feasible by the fact that not only may different books of the Bible be printed on the same sheet, but they may be printed in different languages on the same sheet, so long as the order for each book or language does not fall below 100,000 copies as an average, and 50,000 as a minimum. It is this arrangement which makes it possible to have a uniform price of one cent on all languages, even though the quantity may vary.

The pictures which illustrate this article have been received through the courtesy of R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company, of Crawfordsville,

Indiana, who, so far, have supplied the American Bible Society with these penny portions. These pictures add to the conception of what is involved in the production of such quantities, and of how the work is done.



STITCHING PENNY PORTIONS

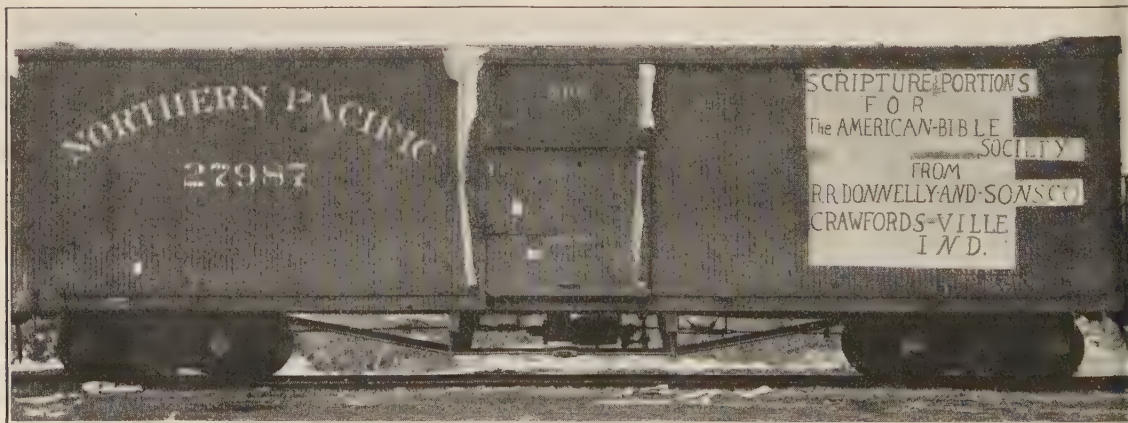
In the picture of the stitching process, all the paper stacked about is for use in filling one of our orders. In that picture and also in the one on the cover of this RECORD of the trimming process, may be seen the strips of folded sheets in bundles, ready for the stitching. Each of those strips contains four portions. At the right of the man at the trimming machine, for instance, may be seen the strips containing four portions. He passes them through the machine, which cuts the strips into four separate books and trims the pages. The girl at the left is

handling a bundle of the cut and trimmed individual portions.

The car shown in the picture below contains a single shipment of 240,000 penny portions for the Pacific Agency. Some of these being urgently needed for a special purpose the railroad authorities promised special handling. The Donnelley Company's workmen were so interested in the matter that, in the absence of a sign painter, they marked the car as seen to facilitate its easy identification and prompt forwarding to San Francisco.

Some Other Large Figures

The largest order so far placed at one time was for 2,100,000 copies. The Gospel of St. John has the distinction, as usual, of being the title for which the largest order was placed at one time, i. e., 900,000 copies. Altogether, 4,150,000 copies of the Gospel of St. John in this one-cent form have been ordered, of which 3,050,000 have been in English, 300,000 in Portuguese, 200,000 in French, 200,000 in Spanish, and 100,000 in Swedish, in German, in Polish, and in Italian.



THIS CAR CARRIED A SINGLE SHIPMENT OF PENNY PORTIONS TO THE PACIFIC AGENCY

To date, a total of 11,050,000 penny portions have been received from the printers. Approximately 540,000 pounds of paper have been used in their manufacture. Some one in the Donnelley establishment, interested in figures, has worked out the facts, that, "if all these penny portions were laid end to end, they would reach a distance of 780 miles; if the paper used were made in a strip one-foot wide, it would extend from New York to Tokio, Japan; if the pages were separated and laid end to end, they would reach 30,400 miles or almost nine times the distance that Lindbergh flew from New York

to Paris. If Lindbergh undertook to fly over a route marked by the pages so placed, it would take him, at the rate he traveled on his New York to Paris trip, twelve full days."

In conclusion, it may be added that, because of its tremendous issue of penny portions, the American Bible Society, for the second year in succession, has issued more portions of Scripture than any other Bible Society or publisher in the world. The British and Foreign Bible Society comes next. For its last year of record, it reports 7,771,967 portions. The American Bible Society issued 8,893,329.

• • •

Happy Annuitants

A PEEP at our mail from those who have placed funds with us on the annuity basis will justify the caption above.

Woodbourne, N. Y.

Thank you very much for your kind words, and kind act. That check for one hundred and twenty dollars in envelope inclosed brought a genuine smile to my face and cheer to my heart. It goes out in company with this letter to the Farmer's Loan and Trust Co., to assure them they are safe. The American Bible Society shall have the first twenty dollars out of it.

Westfield, N. J.

The amount on my annuity bond always seems to come as a welcome surprise. It seems as if you are too generous. I feel it a great privilege to have part, even if a little one, in giving the Bible to the nations of the world, and wish I could do more.

Washington, D. C.

Strangers and pilgrims, but surely on God's own highway; you on your stretch and I on mine serving our Father who knows our aim. *What a blessing!* May the glorious work you represent grow and bring light to struggling souls. The time is short. I thank God for the opportunity that opened to me! [Another letter adds this thought.—Ed.] Your kind deed just made me look up to the Giver of all good things, thanking Him for the many blessings He has bestowed on me since that memorable day when I decided to add in your field my mite. That God shall richly bless you in this work and all who share in it, is my prayer.

Monroe, Wis.

I have decided that you need this money in your work more than I need a radio, a vacation, and some other things, much as I would like to have them. So I am sending you a draft for \$300. I ask God's blessing on your great work. It is for all time and carried everywhere.

[Previously \$500 had been received on the same basis.—Ed.]

Pasadena, Calif.

Permit me to make this rather tardy acknowledgment of receipt of your check for first payment of interest on my annuity bond. Especially would I refer

to the *early* payment. The check, though not due till January, was received before the Christmas holidays—a kind of Christmas present. The spirit of it all is just what I might have expected, I suppose, from the American Bible Society, though it did come as a surprise. It seems to confirm us in the wisdom of our choice of the Bible Society as the medium through which the money might best do its work for the Lord.

West Liberty, W. Va.

I received the interest check O. K. Many thanks, and I pray that much good may be the results of these gifts, though small. We are all stewards and must give an account sooner or later of our stewardship.

Lisbon Falls, Maine.

Many, many thanks for check received on Saturday. It comes as a great blessing.

Lakeland, Florida.

The Lord has blessed me beyond my expectations, and far beyond my deserts, and I rejoice in being able to buy another bond. Thank you for the RECORD and checks, which are always ahead of time—a strong point with investors.

Winchester, Kansas.

Am sending Liberty Bond in exchange for annuity bond. I believe the American Bible Society is engaged in a world-wide enterprise, and it is my desire to contribute a small share to its support. May God speed the work you are doing.

Janesville, Wis.

I expect to be able to take about July 1st another bond of \$1,000. I would like to assist in carrying the blessed gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, and believe there is no better way than the way that you have chosen to do so.

Fayetteville, N. C.

Please accept my thanks for the check received. Permit me to tell you that my dealings with you are more prompt and satisfactory than with any other business, and I never fail to speak of this to persons who might become annuitants.

East Orange, N. J.

June 4th I passed another birthday and I'm glad to celebrate by taking out another annuity bond, knowing that eventually the Bible Society gets the principal and that more Bibles will be in the hands of more individuals.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, JULY, 1927

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

Gleanings from Agency Reports

AS opportunity offers, these pages may carry such excerpts as follow. They help visualize conditions and achievements.

Upper Andes

"Iscai - soncco - Apucc - sutimpi - camachequyocc"—this is not an unrelated collection of letters, but a phrase which the native translator used for the name "Pharisee" in translating the Gospels for the Incas, an Indian tribe of Peru. It indicates one of the obstacles met in translation work where words have to be coined that will express the correct meaning.

Pacific

This Agency reports: "I think this has been the best year of all in the distribution of the Gospels through Christian workers who have bought and paid for Gospels and New Testaments for those who are not Christians. Most of these workers are laboring men who work hard for a living and put aside a portion of their wages each week for this work. One man past middle life comes every Monday and gets sixty 5c Testaments to give away. Another, a hard working man with a family, who is buying a home on the installment plan, uses a portion of his wages to buy Gospels to give away. He just came this week and ordered five thousand."

Caribbean

Peter, the blacksmith, lived in a small town in Salvador. The other day he was suddenly called to lay down his tools. The country neighborhood is sad. He was a pillar of moral strength in it, and they miss him. He was converted through a copy of the Bible sent him by his brother-in-law. This book and Pilgrim's Progress were his intimate companions until he died. The gospel was first preached in that community in his house, which became a center of Christian influence.

Western

During the year 1926 this Agency has increased its circulation 263 per cent above the highest total ever reported before in a single

year. Many earnest men and women have had the conviction that a universal revival of reading God's Word would have a salutary effect upon society in general, and have assisted in a widespread effort to place the Scriptures in the hands of all people hitherto unsupplied.

West Indies

The average number of readers of the Bible in the West Indies has increased 25 per cent during the last three years. Among the intellectual classes the increase has been 63 per cent. The West Indies are in better condition now for mission work and Bible instruction than they have ever been before.

Levant

The future of Mohammedanism in Turkey seems very uncertain. All religious observances, save the feasts and holidays, are being more and more disregarded. The new laws, whereby an individual may adopt whatever religion he pleases, although he may not try to persuade any one else to follow the same course, have deprived the Mohammedan priests of their useful civil functions and confined them strictly to their religious duties, at starvation wages. The result is that new candidates for the priesthood are said to be practically nonexistent.

Central Europe

From our correspondent at Prague, the Rev. J. S. Porter, has come a story of a soldier in the World War from Czechoslovakia. Some one gave him a Bible when he was on leave from the front. He had never seen or heard of the book. He began to read it, was converted and decided that, if he was preserved, he would become a minister of the gospel. His studies in Switzerland and Scotland were completed nearly two years ago. Now he is a pastor of a little self-supporting church in the very city where he first saw a Bible.

HOW TO SEND MONEY BY MAIL

Your money may be lost if you enclose in an ordinary letter silver coin, bills or postage stamps.

THE SAFE WAY IS ONE OF THESE FOUR.

1. Register the letter in which you send bills or postage stamps. Any postmaster will register a letter for fifteen cents.
2. Send the money by Bank check or draft.
3. Send it by an Express Company's money order.
4. Send it by a Post-office money order.

Whichever way is chosen, address the letter and make the check, draft, or order, payable to Gilbert Darlington, Treasurer, Bible House Astor Place, New York.

CASH RECEIPTS IN APRIL, 1927

LEGACIES

Lyman, Minnie N., late of Jackson County, Oregon	\$ 250 00
Newell, Margaret S., late of Utica, N. Y.....	500 00
Southern, Wm. P., late of Silva, N. C.....	423 85
Thayer, Susan M., late of Somerset, N. Y.....	250 00
Trumbull, George B., late of Ithaca, N. Y.....	343 00
Waters, Mary G., late of Yonkers, N. Y.....	2,800 00

GIFTS SUBJECT TO LIFE

INTEREST

Amount received during
the month\$42,950 00

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

Received on

	Donation Account	Book Account
Alabama		\$ 9 80
Blue Earth County Welsh, Minn.		15 00
Buffalo City and Erie Co., N. Y.		486 88
Charleston, S. C.		5 24
Female Auxiliary Bible Society, Schoharie, N. Y.	\$59 54	
Granville Welsh, N. Y.		3 90
Judson and Vicinity Welsh, Minn.	41 50	
Kanawha County, W. Va.		4 29
Long Island, N. Y.		6 02
New Hampshire		234 31
New York		333 75
Rhode Island		118 36
St. Louis, Mo.		441 54
Salem Bible Ass'n, N. C.		13 95
Schoharie Co., N. Y.	19 00	
		\$1,673 04

Received on Donation Account \$ 120 04

HOME AGENCIES

Atlantic	\$	5,217	62
Central		2,055	62
Colored People of U. S. A.		1,276	68
Eastern		3,125	37
National Capital		360	71
Northwestern		5,260	79
Pacific		2,403	15
South Atlantic		2,301	23
Southwestern		2,709	76
Western		1,045	31
		\$25,756	24

FOREIGN AGENCY

Brazil	\$4,104 43
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From Home Agencies and Included
in Home Agencies Receipts

Donations from Auxiliary Bible Societies:	
Monmouth Co., N. J.....	\$150 00
Pennsylvania	332 64
Gifts from Churches.....	810 54
Gifts from Individuals....	540 33

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES

DONATED

Board of National Missions, Presbyterian Church.....	\$44 03
Miss Edith M. Dabb, Y. W. C. A. Home Mission Council, Fort Totten, N. D.....	1 00
J. A. Jerome, S. D.....	1 15
	<hr/> \$46 18

RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$ 4,566 85
Gifts Subject to Life Interest	42,950 00

Auxiliary Societies on Do- nation Account	\$ 120 04
Auxiliary Societies on Book Account.....	1,673 04
Home Agencies	25,756 24
Foreign Agency	4,104 43
Returns from Scriptures Donated	46 18
	<hr/> \$79,216 78

MISCELLANEOUS

Annuity Account Invested	\$	4,362	50
Annuity Department.....		238	50
Available Investments.....		448	51
Bible House Rentals.....	10,765	95	
Bible Society Record.....		6	00
Funds Received for Transmission	1,831	64	
General Salaries and Ex- penses		4	25
Gifts for Distribution to the blind from individ- uals	662	01	
Gifts from Churches.....	27,475	11	
Gifts from Individuals...	8,693	57	
Income from Available Investments	246	42	
Income from Legacies and Gifts Trust Funds	1,479	82	
Manufacturing Credits...	157	83	
Maryland Bible Society..	2,500	00	
Scriptures to the Blind..	94	58	
Special Annuity Income and Expense Account..	84	50	
The Trade	957	60	
Trust Funds Invested...	1,551	49	

Total Cash Receipts..\$140,777 06

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Gifts Subject to Life Interest. Received 1st Mortgage Bond.....\$100 00

CASH STATEMENT FOR APRIL, 1927

GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

Balance from March, 1927.....	\$72,564	24
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	120	04
Auxiliaries	1,673	04
Trade	957	60
Scriptures to the Blind.....	94	58
Manufacturing Credits.....	157	88
Annuity Account	42,950	00
Bible House Rentals.....	10,765	95
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	662	01
Gifts from Churches.....	27,475	11
Gifts from Individuals.....	8,693	57
Bible Society Record.....	6	00
Maryland Bible Society.....	2,500	00
Available Investments	448	51
Funds received for Transmission.....	1,831	64
Trust Funds Invested.....	1,551	49
Annuity Account Invested.....	4,362	50
Home Agencies	25,756	24
Foreign Agencies	4,104	43
General—Salaries and Expenses.....	4	25
Income from Legacies and Gifts — Trust Funds	1,479	82
Annuity Department	238	50
Incomes from Available Investment.....	246	42
Legacies	4,566	85
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	46	18
Special Annuity—Income and Expense Acct	84	50
	\$213,341	30

DISBURSEMENTS

Bills of Exchange.....	\$16,018 08
General Salaries and Expenses.....	5,381 32
Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses...	1,830 86
Bible House Expenses.....	7,783 57
Appeals	1,578 41
Diffusion of Information.....	2,085 00
Annuity Department	16,567 21
Bible Society Record.....	211 65
Cash reserved for Publication Department...	42,457 15
Home Agencies	12,664 15
Foreign Agencies	2,855 66
Funds received for Transmission.....	1,501 64
United States Trust Co.—Available Invest- ments	2,226 17
United States Trust Co.—Trust Funds.....	2,000 00
United States Trust Co.—Annuity Account...	20,911 71
Insurance paid in advance.....	10,661 03
Blind Fund	449 38
Miscellaneous Home	467 24
Miscellaneous Foreign	5,294 00
Church Budget Costs.....	2 50
Legacy Expenses	40 00
Library	147 45
Broadcasting	50 00
Legacy Equalization Fund.....	4,049 71
Legacies	290 00
Petty Cash	500 00
Special Annuity—Income and Expense Acc't	180 00
Translation and Revision	201 00
Suspense	200 00
Balance to May, 1927.....	54,736 39
	<u>\$213,341 30</u>

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from March, 1927.....	\$ 4,420 64
Transferred from General Cash.....	42,457 15
	<hr/>
	\$46,877 79

Publication Department	\$33,460	88
For Investment	9,475	00
Balance to May, 1927.....	3,941	91
	<u>\$46,877</u>	<u>79</u>

Total Cash Balance.....	\$58,678 30
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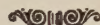
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LIFE ANNUITY RATES

(One Person)

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
1 to 30	4.0%	60	6.5%
31 to 40	4.5%	61	6.6%
41	4.6%	62	6.7%
42	4.7%	63	6.8%
43	4.8%	64	6.9%
44	4.9%	65	7.0%
45	5.0%	66	7.1%
46	5.1%	67	7.2%
47	5.2%	68	7.3%
48	5.3%	69	7.4%
49	5.4%	70	7.5%
50	5.5%	71	8.1%
51	5.6%	72	8.2%
52	5.7%	73	8.3%
53	5.8%	74	8.4%
54	5.9%	75	8.5%
55	6.0%	76	8.6%
56	6.1%	77	8.7%
57	6.2%	78	8.8%
58	6.3%	79	8.9%
59	6.4%	80	9.0%
Over 80—9.0%			

In determining age reckon from
nearest birthday.

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